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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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May 2, 2013

The Honorable Charles T. Hagel
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to request that the Department provide Committee Members with a response to recent allegations made by an unidentified individual during an interview this week suggesting that the Department failed to mobilize a special operations unit on a mission in Europe to respond to the attacks in Benghazi on September 11, 2012. I would appreciate the Department's response before May 8, 2013, when our Committee has scheduled a hearing on these matters.

On April 30, 2013, an unidentified individual described as a "military special ops member" asserted during a television interview that the Department failed to mobilize a special operations team conducting training exercises in Europe to respond to the attacks in Benghazi. Specifically, he stated:

I know for a fact that C-110, the EUCOM [European Command] CIF [commander's in extremis force] was doing a training exercise not in the region of North Africa, but in Europe, and they had the ability to react and respond.¹

The individual stated further:

We had the ability to load out, get on birds [aircraft] and fly there, at a minimum stage. C-110 had the ability to be there, in my opinion, in four to six hours.²

This individual also stated: "They would have been there before the second attack."³

¹ *Special Forces Could've Responded to Benghazi Attack, Whistle-Blower Tells Fox News*, Fox News (Apr. 30, 2013) (online at www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/04/30/special-ops-benghazi-whistleblower-tells-fox-news-government-could-have/).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

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I understand that the Department already has provided a significant amount of information and testimony to Congress relating to this issue. Based presumably on this and other information, a staff report issued last week by House Speaker John Boehner and the Chairmen of five House Committees concluded that "Department of Defense officials and military personnel reacted quickly to the attacks in Benghazi," and that "[n]o evidence has been provided to suggest these officials refused to deploy resources because they thought the situation had been sufficiently resolved."⁴

In order to assist Members of our Committee prepare for Wednesday's public hearing I request that the Department provide an unclassified response to these specific allegations to ensure that the public record is complete and accurate and to correct any misperceptions about the Department's response both during and immediately after the attacks. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Darrell E. Issa, Chairman

⁴ Chairmen of the Committees on Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform, and Intelligence, *Interim Progress Report for the Members of the House Republican Conference on the Events Surrounding the September 11, 2012 Terrorist Attacks in Benghazi, Libya* (Apr. 23, 2013) (online at www.speaker.gov/report/benghazi-interim-report).